

# Meet Tyler McNamer

The Mini Page interviewed Tyler McNamer, the author of "Population: One." Tyler's book is about his life with autism. Today he is 20 years old and is enrolled in a design engineering class. "I like to learn things," Tyler said. "I like the routine (of school)."

## "What's going on?"

Tyler was 6 when he first realized that he was different from other kids. When he was 10, his parents explained to him about his autism. "It was pretty confusing. I didn't quite know what was going on. It was kind of an odd experience," Tyler said.

Tyler didn't go to a special school or special classes, but he did have **paraprofessionals**\* with him in school. "They reminded me to do stuff or not to do stuff," he said. "I kind of liked having paraprofessionals; it was kind of a normal thing to do for me."

**"A paraprofessional is an aide who helps students one-on-one in school."**

**Getting along**  
Tyler said at first he would observe other kids and try to be like them. "But then the strange part is, the other kids were trying to talk slowly and be all gentle and calm and stuff," Tyler said. They would go easy on him when playing sports. "And it felt kind of weird, to be quite honest," he said. "People don't have to be easy on me or anything like that."

## Growing up

Tyler said it's become easier for him to manage his autism as he's gotten older. "When I was real little, I had trouble with noise and many noisy things. Today, sure, I prefer quiet a lot of times, but it's not hard. It's a noisy world outside," he said.

## Writing the book

Tyler began his writing career with articles for his high school newspaper. With the book, he said, "I wanted to expand my thoughts on different things and help others."



Tyler is thinking about writing a second book. "It's been a big adventure. Not a lot of teenagers are able to publish a book!" he said.

## A message to kids

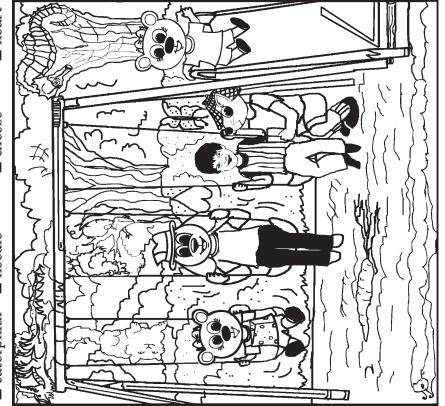
"People (with autism) think differently and act differently. It's such a mysterious diagnosis that even the person with it doesn't really know what's going on," Tyler said.

Tyler said kids should know it's OK to ask children with autism what's going on in their heads or to ask a teacher to help you understand why a child with autism is acting differently.

## Mini Spy

Mini Spy helps Andy on the playground.

- See if you can find: ☐ mouse ☐ chicken ☐ pencil ☐ dragon ☐ word MINI ☐ toothbrush ☐ frog ☐ number 7 ☐ sea horse ☐ butterfly ☐ cat ☐ carrot ☐ hammer ☐ number 3 ☐ caterpillar ☐ needle ☐ cheese ☐ heart



Busset Brown's

## Try 'n' Find

Words that remind us of autism are hidden in the block above. Some words are hidden backward or diagonally, and some letters are used twice. See if you can find: ASPERGER'S, AUTISM, BULLYING, COMMUNICATION, DIAGNOSIS, DIFFERENT, DISORDER, FRIEND, LIGHT, NOISE, SCHOOL, SENSITIVE, SMELL, SPECTRUM, SPEECH, STIMULI, TASTE.



Busset Brown's

## Ready Resources

The Mini Page provides ideas for websites, books or other resources that will help you learn more about this week's topics.

## On the Web:

- bit.ly/1A3WCP
- bit.ly/1DCXnU
- bit.ly/1vG9y9

## At the library:

- "My Friend Has Autism" by Amanda Deering Tourville
- "Russell's World" by Charles A. Amenta III, M.D.
- "A Is for Autism, F is for Friend" by Joama L. Keating-Velasco

## Autism

E W F J L O O H C S G R D S D  
V M R L I G H T P N E I R Q I  
I H E N O I S E I D F E T S A  
T C E P X L C Y R F G A T U G  
I E N V L T L O E R S I T C B O  
S E M D U I E P U S F L H S  
S N O I T A C I N U M W B K Y I  
S E M B D N S O L M M O C S

## Paul Goldschmidt

No one is more eager for the start of the Major League Baseball season than Arizona Diamondbacks first baseman Paul Goldschmidt. The Arizona slugger had a breakout season in 2013, but a broken hand caused him to miss the final two months of the 2014 season.

Paul was born in Wilmington, Delaware, but grew up near Houston, Texas. After attending Texas State University, Paul was taken by the Diamondbacks in the eighth round of the 2009 MLB Draft. After two seasons in the minor leagues, Paul made his MLB debut on Aug. 26, 2011, with 36 home runs.

In 2013, Paul led the National League with 36 home runs and 125 RBIs, and was named to the National League All-Star team. He also won the Hank Aaron Award as the NL's top hitter with a .302 batting average, and received a Gold Glove Award for outstanding defense at his position. As this season gets underway, Paul is ready to swing his bat once again.



Gus



Height: 6-3  
Weight: 277  
Hometown: The Woodlands, Texas

## Rookie Cookie's Recipe Wrap 'n' Bake Hot Dogs

- You'll need:**
- 1 tube refrigerated pizza dough
  - Cooking spray
  - 1 package low-fat precooked hot dogs
  - 4 cheese sticks, cut in half lengthwise
- What to do:**
1. Spread out pizza dough and divide into 8 equal pieces.
  2. Spray cookie sheet with cooking spray.
  3. Make a lengthwise slit in each hot dog and place half a cheese stick inside.
  4. Wrap each hot dog in pizza dough, pinching seams together. Place on cookie sheet.
  5. Bake in oven at 400 degrees for 15 to 18 minutes until lightly browned.
  6. Serve with mustard, ketchup andetchup if desired. Serves 8.
- You will need an adult's help with this recipe.*

## Meet Maria Bello

Maria Bello stars as Cheryl White in the Disney movie "McHale's Navy," based on a true story. In it, high school runners from a low-income, mostly Latino town build a top team.

"Maria has starred in many movies, including 'The Jane Austen Book Club,' 'The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor,' and 'Flicka,' and in TV shows such as 'ER.'"

Maria, 47, was born in Norristown, Pennsylvania. She majored in peace and justice education in college. She took an acting class her senior year in college and discovered that she loved it.

She supports several charities, especially those working for women's rights. She helped lead efforts to open a women's clinic after the 2010 earthquake in Haiti. She also supports the charity Save the Children.



## The Mighty Funny's Mini Jokes

All the following jokes have something in common. Can you guess the common theme or category?

- Pam:** Why did the angry lady put a firecracker under her pancakes?  
**Pete:** She wanted to blow her stack!  
**Piper:** Did you hear about the boy who ate 500 pancakes?  
**Philip:** How waffle!  
**Perry:** In what sport does a pancake compete?  
**Patriek:** Stack and field!